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Achievements in Regulatory Reform in Ontario

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January 1982



*Honourable N.W. Sterling
Minister Without Portfolio
Responsible for Regulatory Reform*



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January 1982

The Regulatory Reform Program was initiated by the Government of Ontario in 1978 in recognition that the change in economic conditions from prosperity to constraint warranted the government considering a different approach to regulation.

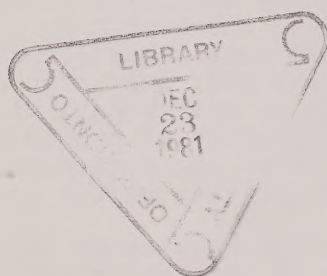
In an attempt to create a balance between the essential need for effective regulation in order for society to survive, and the need to reduce or eliminate the cost to business and individuals of complying with over-regulation, our approach is reform of regulation rather than deregulation.

This report presents the significant achievements in the following areas: elimination/consolidation of legislation, regulations, boards; privatization; intergovernmental relations; self-regulation/decreased involvement by government; clarification/simplification/consolidation of procedures and programs; reduction in filing requirements; decentralization and; private sector participation.

The process of reforming regulation is an ongoing one and therefore it is this government's intention to continue its efforts to lessen the regulatory burden on the public.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norman W. Sterling".

Norman W. Sterling
Minister Without Portfolio
Responsible for Regulatory Reform



ACHIEVEMENTS IN REGULATORY REFORM

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

SIMPLIFICATION OF PROCEDURES:

The Dog Licencing and Livestock and Poultry
Protection Act
and
Hunter Damage Compensation Act

Amendments to both Acts removed specific reference to maximum levels of compensation available under the Acts, and provided for maximum levels of compensation to be established by regulation.

Such action provides for flexibility to more readily adjust maximum compensation levels in keeping with changing market values.

The Farm Products Appeal Tribunal

The tribunal was established to assume the appellate function of the Farm Products Marketing Board, and the Milk Commission of Ontario.

This action was taken to simplify administration and facilitate the hearing of appeals by separating the appeal function from the operating function of the two agencies, and placing the appeal function in the hands of a body accountable to the Minister.

REDUCTION OF FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL OVERLAPS:

Dairy Industry

Until recently, Ontario milk plants were subject to quality control inspections by the Federal Government, the Ontario Ministry of Health, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

In order to eliminate the duplication of effort, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food took the initiative and through negotiation, is now the agency which performs the required inspections, the reports of which are accepted by both other parties.

SELF-REGULATION/DECREASED INVOLVEMENT BY GOVERNMENT:

Farm Machinery

The role and function of the Ontario Farm Machinery Board has been broadened to permit the development and implementation of a voluntary code of practice respecting the sale and servicing of farm machinery and farm machinery parts. The voluntary code of practice was developed with the support of farm machinery manufacturers, distributors, and sellers, as an alternative to the introduction of regulatory legislation.

The Live Stock Branding Act

The Act was amended to allow for the exemption of pure-bred livestock branded in accordance with an official breed identification program from the Act and its Regulations.

The Live Stock Community Sales Act

This Act was amended to permit cooperative corporations greater flexibility to hold sales by increasing the number of sales permitted, deleting clean-up and sanitation provisions from the Act and modifying those set by regulation.

PRIVATIZATION:

Dairy Herd Improvement

The Dairy Herd Improvement Program (herd milk sampling and testing) has been privatized. Staff and program transfer to the newly formed Ontario Dairy Herd Improvement Corporation was completed October 1, 1981.

ELIMINATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF BOARDS:

The Agriculture Licencing and Registration Review Board

Thirteen separate licence and registration review boards dealing with a range of areas were consolidated into a single review board. The consolidation simplified administration and facilitated public access to the review process.

The Ontario Tender Fruit Producers' Marketing Board

Since the former Ontario Fresh Fruit Growers' Marketing Board and the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers' Marketing Board provided services to many of the same growers, action was taken at the request of the growers involved, to amalgamate the two boards into a single one - The Ontario Tender Fruit Producers' Marketing Board.

The Fresh Vegetable Marketing Plan
and
The Winter Celery Marketing Plan

The marketing boards administering both of these plans have been inoperative for many years. Thus, both plans were revoked.

REPEAL OF LEGISLATION/REVOCATION OF REGULATIONS:

The Warble Fly Control Act

The Provision and adoption of new technology for the control of warble drugs made the Act redundant. It was therefore repealed in the Fall of 1980 and municipalities will no longer be required to enforce by-laws existing under the Act.

The Livestock and Livestock Products Act

In January 1981, regulations under The Livestock and Livestock Products Act which required the licencing of wool collectors and wool warehouse persons were revoked.

The Milk Act

Recommendations of a committee to consolidate, simplify and eliminate duplication of regulations under The Milk Act were approved by the Minister in time for the changes to be included in the 1980 consolidation of regulations. Other changes, specifically regulations by the Ontario Milk Marketing Board, appeared in 1981.

MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SELF-REGULATION/DECREASED INVOLVEMENT BY GOVERNMENT:

Architects Amendment Act

Formerly, an architect was not permitted to affiliate with a corporation. An amendment now allows architects to associate with a corporation in order to work in foreign jurisdictions.

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Administration of Justice Amendment Act

As of June 1980, a user-pay system has been implemented in court offices.

Parking Fines

Fines for parking offences can now be paid at any bank branch throughout Metropolitan Toronto.

ELIMINATION/CONSOLIDATION OF LEGISLATION:

The Provincial Offences Act

The Act was proclaimed March 31, 1980 and significantly improves procedures to deal with minor offences.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Capital and Operating Funding

In the Fall of 1979, legislative provisions dealing with capital subsidies under six Acts were standardized and streamlined. In addition, six Acts containing provisions for operating subsidies were similarly standardized in December, 1980.

Fire Safety and Building Standards

In conjunction with the standardization of regulations dealing with capital subsidies, fire safety requirements and building standards were both standardized and rationalized.

Audit Requirements

Regulations dealing with audit requirements were standardized early in 1979.

Removal of Statutory Forms

As part of the standardization of capital and operating subsidy provisions, subsidy claim forms have been removed from the regulations and replaced with administrative forms. Approximately 20 forms have been deregulated. This move not only permits the standardization of claim forms, but also allows for the forms to be revised without the necessity of a regulation amendment.

As an additional reform measure, common forms of application and medical assessment are now in use for the short-term general welfare assistance program and the longer-term family benefits program. This allows for easier transfer of the client from the former program to the latter and provides greater accessibility for the client.

ELIMINATION/CONSOLIDATION OF LEGISLATION:

The Welfare Units Act

This Act was repealed with the introduction of The General Welfare Assistance Act.

ELIMINATION/CONSOLIDATION OF REGULATIONS:

The General Welfare Assistance Act

Regulations 382 and 385 of Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1970, were revoked since their intent was covered by The Family Benefits Act.

The Homes for Retarded Persons Act

Regulations regarding staff resident rates, prerequisites for admission and forms have been revoked.

Duplicative Regulations

Where Ministry regulations were unnecessary as a result of being the same as municipal by-laws or federal legislation, the Ministry revoked or amended its regulations to reduce duplication.

ELIMINATION OF ORDERS-IN-COUNCIL:

The Family Benefits Act

In 1978, benefits for handicapped children were provided by passing approximately 930 Orders-in-Council, which require the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor. This is a time-consuming process which involves extensive paper work. By amending the regulation under The Family Benefits Act, the need to pass all but a very small number of Orders-in-Council has been eliminated.

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

PRIVATIZATION:

Delinquent Account Collection

As of May 1980 contracts have been awarded to outside collection agencies for collection of delinquent accounts receivable within the Motor Vehicle Accident Claims Fund.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS:

Pension Commission of Ontario

A reciprocal agreement has been signed with Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan which provides that registration of a pension by one of these provinces in accordance with the terms of its pension legislation and this reciprocal agreement has the effect of registering the pension in any of the remaining provinces.

SELF-REGULATION/DECREASED INVOLVEMENT BY GOVERNMENT:

Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires

Credit Unions and caisses populaires were exempted by regulation from Section 36 (disclosure) of The Consumer Protection Act. This enables them to use variable interest rates on loans.

The Elevating Devices Act

The Elevating Devices Act 1980 and Ontario Regulation 229/81 came into force on May 1, 1981. The Act is basically a consolidation of The Elevators and Lifts Act and The Construction Hoists Act, and the regulations set out the specific areas of responsibility and accountability for elevator safety of owners and their maintenance contractors.

Registered Insurance Brokers of Ontario

The establishment of the self-regulatory body known as "Registered Insurance Brokers of Ontario" through which the insurer and the industry will assume responsibility for the qualification and activities of most other-than-life agents was finalized in June and RIBO commenced operations on October 1, 1981.

Incorporations

The Business Corporations Act has been amended to provide for over-the-counter incorporations. Under the new legislation, the incorporator accepts responsibility for the articles of incorporation and the selection of the proposed corporate name. There are a number of private name search firms which provide mandatory name search for a fee.

The Travel Industry Compensation Fund

The Travel Industry Compensation Fund was created in 1975. It provides for a compensation fund administered by a board of trustees appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The board is made up of representatives from the travel industry, consumer groups and the government. A measure of self-regulation is provided in that each registered travel agent is required to contribute annually to the fund. The fund is maintained at \$1.5 million and is used to reimburse people who have made a payment to a travel agent for travel services but have not received those services.

Ontario New Home Warranty Program

In 1976 the Ministry in conjunction with the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada (HUDAC) created the Ontario New Home Warranty Program. The program is a self-administered non-profit corporation that provides a measure of security for families purchasing new homes in the province. All vendors and builders of homes must be registered under the Act and in doing so must provide a warranty to the owners that the home is constructed in a workman-like manner and is free from defects in materials, fit for habitation and is constructed in accordance with the Ontario Building Code. Consumers are therefore protected against loss on deposits and defective workmanship.

Energy Safety

Mutually agreeable standards were developed between this Ministry and the liquefied fuels industry, regarding standards of safety. This obviates the need to introduce regulatory measures. Consensus standard setting approaches have worked satisfactorily to date with the natural gas and pipeline industry.

The Commodity Futures Act

The Commodity Futures Act, 1978 formally recognizes the Toronto Stock Exchange and the Investment Dealers' Association as self-regulating bodies in the trading and advising activities of their member firms and salesmen.

Credit Unions

The Ontario Share and Deposit Insurance Corporation was created in 1977 in a move toward self-regulation. It is the insuring corporation for deposits by the public and is operated by the industry itself.

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Upholstered and Stuffed Articles

In January 1980 product labelling requirements were simplified by elimination of various colours of labels. Only one label form (white) is now required indicating filling material content by name(s).

Property Rights

All first applications will be processed by a centralized group in Land and Survey Standards Branch. This will make it more convenient for the public in terms of submitting first applications and will enhance efficiency in dealing with such applications to the Branch. (A first application is required to transfer land from the registry system to the land titles system.) Changeover started in September 1979, with full implementation accomplished in April 1980.

Land Registration Systems

Housekeeping amendments were made to Regulation 932/78 under The Registry Act in September 1980 to increase efficiency in processing and approving plans and descriptions entering the Land Registration Systems.

Limited Partnership Act

A new Limited Partnership Act to facilitate use of limited partnerships for business ventures such as mining, oil/gas exploration, and film-making was introduced June 1980.

Title Search

The Registry Act was amended in August 1981 to clarify that the search period for titles to property is 40 years and to make discharges of mortgages immediately effective.

Film Approval

Effective October 1, 1981 only the first copy of each film approved by the Censor Board (without eliminations) requires stamping. This saves the industry substantial costs for transporting hundreds of reels to the Theatres Branch.

Documentation procedures have been introduced by the Theatres Branch for approving certain films for limited exhibition. Films can be reviewed on the basis of a written application accompanied by a description of content and relevant reviews or documentation. This procedure provides great savings to experimental arts theatres, festivals and galleries in the cost of shipping films to and from the Theatres Branch and reduces red tape regarding limited exhibition films.

Business Practices

The fee schedule for annual fees has been standardized and a number of miscellaneous registration fees, e.g. transfer, replacement certificates, etc., for brokers, such as real estate brokers, or travel agents, have been eliminated. A simplified standard form was developed to cover many different types of registrants.

Ontario Securities Commission

A number of procedural innovations have resulted in elimination of certain filing requirements. The prospectus review process has been shortened and simplified for those who file prospectuses with relative frequency (such as finance companies and mutual funds).

The administrators within the various securities commissions' jurisdictions have streamlined their procedures so that a prospectus can be filed simultaneously in several jurisdictions.

Under The Securities Act 1979, proclaimed September 1979, chartered banks can now be registered in Ontario as securities' vendors. This will simplify procedures since they are able to sell as agents.

Filing and information requirements regarding the distribution of new securities under the Conditions of Registration have been simplified.

Information reporting requirements have been streamlined when the status of an individual registrant with a firm changes and when registrant firms authorize annual audits not involving a change of auditors.

Land Transfer Tax Affidavit

The forms required in ownership transfers of property have been reduced (from three forms to one consolidated form) and simplified, resulting in direct and indirect savings of approximately \$250,000 through the elimination of paperwork.

Property Rights

The Registry Act and The Land Titles Act were amended in April 1978 to complement The Family Law Reform Act 1978 and The Succession Law Reform Act 1977.

Real Property

The application process for first registration of land has been streamlined by simplifying the material and documentation to be submitted by applicant.

A combined certificate of true copy of instrument to be used in both Land Titles and Registry Offices was developed to reduce printing costs and provide uniformity.

REDUCTION IN FILING REQUIREMENTS:

The Corporations Information Act

Under this Act, regulations governing the information required about directors of corporations have been changed. A listing of other corporations related to the one of which he/she is a director is no longer required.

DECENTRALIZATION:

Registry Offices

In addition to the Grey South Registry Office, three more registry offices were satellited in January 1980; namely, the registry offices in Cobourg, Port Hope and Cayuga. The concept of satellite office is that the Land Registrar of the supporting office is placed in direct charge of all senior management tasks in a satellite office. The satellite office is managed on a day-to-day basis by the local Deputy Land Registrar.

ELIMINATION/CONSOLIDATION OF REGULATIONS:

Building Requirements for Theatres

The Theatres Branch Regulations pertaining to building design and construction were repealed in view of the requirement to conform to the Building Code, effective June 10, 1981.

Survey Requirements

Regulations regarding survey requirements in The Land Titles Act, The Certification of Titles Act and The Condominium Act have been consolidated into one comprehensive, simplified regulation.

ELIMINATION/CONSOLIDATION OF BOARDS:

Cemeteries Advisory Board

In keeping with the Government's ongoing program to abrogate boards and commissions which are no longer functioning, this board was eliminated by a regulation made pursuant to The Cemeteries Act.

Liquor Advisory Council and Liquor Advisory Committee

This committee was originally an informal, voluntary committee which advised the Minister on liquor-related matters. It grew to a formal, recognized committee with a per diem salary and when the costs outweighed the benefits, it was terminated.

LICENCING:

Business Practices Registrations

In November 1980, renewal cycles for all registrations in the Business Practices Division were extended. At the same time, requirements to provide certified cheques with registration forms were eliminated.

Travel Agents

Travel agents were registered under The Travel Industry Act and under The Insurance Act to sell accident and baggage insurance. They are no longer required to be licenced under The Insurance Act.

Projectionists

Projectionists are now licenced for three-year periods rather than annually. A fee of \$45 covers the three-year period.

MINISTRY OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR:

Probation/Parole Workload

The workload regarding probation and parole continues to increase every year. The Government is encouraging the private sector to participate more and more in programmes directed at workload offset for probation and parole staff. This community participation provides greater flexibility in financial negotiations, as well as increased programme diversity. Private agency grants and contracts to such groups as the Salvation Army, Elizabeth Fry Society or the John Howard Society, have increased substantially from \$577,500 in 1978/79 to \$2 million in 1980/81.

Industries in Correctional Institutions

The institutional Programs Division of this Ministry is continuing to negotiate with the private sector in an effort to establish cottage industries in the correctional institutions. Currently, for example, the inmates at Maplehurst Correctional Centre are under contract with a private company to assemble muffler parts. Private industry presently operates an abattoir at Guelph Correctional Centre, and a mattress shop at Mimico Correctional Centre.

ELIMINATION OF FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL OVERLAP:

Ontario Parole Board

The Ontario Parole Board has taken over the jurisdiction of the Federal Parole Board in Ontario to eliminate the overlap functions of the two organizations. The two-tiered, entangled system now has been reduced to a single, simpler system. The Ontario Parole Board automatically considers and personally interviews all inmates with a sentence of six months to two years less a day.

The Ontario Parole Board has also regionalized its organization. Having staff located in the regions not only saves travel time and money, it allows the Parole Board to be more aware of, and sensitive to, local issues. Such a system also affords the opportunity to hire part-time staff from local communities.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND RECREATION

PRIVATIZATION:

Merchandise Outlets

Retail sales outlets are now operated on a lease basis by private businesses in Huronia, Old Fort William and the Ontario Science Centre rather than direct government operation of these outlets.

SELF-REGULATION/DECREASED INVOLVEMENT BY GOVERNMENT:

Recreation

The Ministry is assisting the recreation profession to assume control of its own professional development through a College of Recreationists of Ontario.

Athletic Control Act

The Ministry has deregulated direct control over amateur boxing and wrestling to make both sports self-governing similar to other amateur sports, and the fees charged in this respect have been eliminated.

Experience Program

Rather than having the Ministry process applications annually relating to a summer student employment program for deaf and blind persons, this responsibility has been transferred to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. This action has decreased the direct involvement of the Ministry.

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Processing Procedures

In Wintario Program Grants signing authorities have been delegated. Processing procedures have also been simplified by revising criteria and procedures for art gallery, cultural exchange and multicultural grants programs.

Community Museums

Policy has been developed which clarifies principles governing provincial assistance to local museums, recommends standards for the museums and clarifies regulation governing operating grants.

SIMPLIFICATION OF GRANTS CRITERIA:

A complete review of grants criteria has been conducted to significantly streamline and simplify procedures.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION/COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

PRIVATIZATION:

Schools

Many services are provided under contract with private sector agencies at four schools.

SELF-REGULATION/DECREASED INVOLVEMENT BY GOVERNMENT:

Hard Rock Miners

The Royal Commission on the Health and Safety of Workers in Mines recommended training for all miners employed in Ontario. Rather than undertake this as a direct activity, the Government rationalized the modular curriculum and examinations and then delegated authority to selected mining companies. These companies now train their own employees using the modular curriculum, examine them using government examinations and recommended successful employees for government certification.

Curriculum Guidelines

For elementary and secondary schools curriculum guidelines are prepared using secondees from the field.

Capital Grants Plan

The approval of the Minister of Education is no longer required for capital projects if no provincial grants are involved. In August 1979, the entire Capital Grants Plan was updated to meet current needs.

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Universities Operating Funding Formula

In spite of strong pressure to legislate, the operating funding formula for universities is published.

Issues and Directions

"Issues and Directions" is the Ministry of Education response to the Commission on Declining Enrolment. The document outlines the policy that Government feels should now apply to public elementary and secondary education, relates current and contemplated decisions to this policy framework and attempts to stimulate discussion of the directions outlined.

SIMPLIFICATION OF GRANTS CRITERIA:

Graduate Programs

Since 1971, the method used to determine eligibility for grants to universities' new Master's and doctoral programs was a system which assessed every graduate program in that discipline in the province. Because this system was failing to accomplish program rationalization, or foster excellence, the Minister is introducing a scheme whereby new programs at the universities will be funded as long as they meet accepted academic standards, regardless of other programs in that discipline.

ELIMINATION/CONSOLIDATION OF REGULATIONS:

Circular 14

Circular 14 is no longer issued as a regulation but as an exercise of ministerial power under The Education Act. Circular 14 has been published this way since 1979.

Grants for French Language Instruction

Two regulations applying to the national capital region (366/73 and 698/76) have been revoked by O. Regulation 82/80 and will never recur.

Teacher's Qualifications

A new regulation called Ontario Teacher's Qualifications has superseded the three old regulations which governed interim teaching certificates and letters of standing, permanent certificates and special certificates. The provisions which related to teacher qualifications in the regulations governing schools for trainable retarded children and for the blind and deaf were also incorporated into the new regulation. Formerly, there were 540 different kinds of teaching certificates. These are now replaced by one certificate which includes a record card. This has approximately 200 different possible specialist entries.

Hairstyling

Four regulations - Barber, Hairdresser, Barber Schools, Hairdresser Schools - have been revoked and replaced by two regulations: Hairstylists and Hairstyling Schools.

LICENCING:

Extended Duration for Certificates of Qualification

Some 140,000 tradesmen with Certificates of Qualification in their trades who had to apply and pay for the renewal of their Certificate every two years now have to do this only every three years.

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

PRIVATIZATION:

Industrial Waste Disposal and Recovery

In a continued effort to encourage private industry in waste treatment and recovery, the Ontario Waste Management Corporation has been established. The operation of the Ministry built Resources Recovery Plant in Toronto has been contracted to a private company.

Separation of Waste at Source

The Ministry's project to encourage the separation of waste at the source for re-use on a large municipal scale utilizing private industry has received Cabinet approval. Applications have been received from companies in Burlington, Ottawa and Stratford and the final selections will be made in the near future.

SELF-REGULATION/DECREASED INVOLVEMENT BY GOVERNMENT:

Water and Sewage

Approval of non-complex extensions to water and sewage systems has been delegated to regional municipalities. The regional municipalities now have the expertise to do this work. Legally, Environment must still issue approval but this is now done automatically upon approval of regional municipalities.

Derelict Motor Vehicle Sites

The Ministry has discontinued the practice of issuing certification of approval for the operation of derelict motor vehicle sites. Municipalities currently control the location of such site through local zoning and may license their operation.

Water Quality

In November 1978, the Ministry released its revised "Water Management Goals, Policies and Objectives". The development of objectives, particularly water quality objectives, was selected over the more rigid approach of standards or regulations in order that consideration may be given to broader interests such as the fair allocation of resources and the economic implications of abatement measures.

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Economic Assessment for Industrial Clean-up

An economic assessment and review process for the Ministry's major abatement requirement for industrial clean-up has been formally instituted, including a public review in the local municipality of any amendments to clean-up control orders requested by industry.

The Consolidated Hearing Act

The Consolidated Hearing Act was passed in June 1981 in an effort to streamline the approval procedures for municipal, private and provincial projects which would otherwise require hearings by more than one tribunal. These tribunals include the Ontario Municipal Board, the Environmental Assessment Board, land division committees, committees of adjustment, Inquiry Officers under The Expropriations Act and Hearing Officers under The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act.

Under The Consolidated Hearing Act proponents may request a consolidated hearing thereby avoiding the duplication of effort inherent in holding several hearings. The Act benefits both the proponent and interested parties and streamlines the process for the provincial ministries.

Waste Disposal

In 1978 the Ministry reorganized in an effort to consolidate and streamline all of the Ministry's administrative functions concerning land-based disposal and management of wastes. The Waste Management Branch deals directly with these matters and works closely with the regional and district offices.

DECENTRALIZATION:

Waste Disposal Sites

The approval of waste disposal sites which do not require a hearing have been delegated to ministry district offices.

ELIMINATION/CONSOLIDATION OF BOARDS:

Environmental Appeal Board

The Ministry has eliminated the Pesticides Appeal Board and incorporated its responsibilities under the Environmental Appeal Board. This has been effective since 1979.

ELIMINATION OF ORDERS-IN-COUNCIL:

Grants Programs

The Ministry has grants programs which help municipalities to improve waste disposal sites and to control termites. Until 1978 these grants could only be issued by Order-in-Council, but since then the legislation has been amended so that the Ministry can issue these grants directly. This reduces considerably time delays and paper work.

LICENCING:

Waste Management Sites

Until 1979 the Ministry required that a certificate to operate a waste management site be renewed regularly in periods ranging from one to five years. This clause in the regulations has been lifted. The Ministry will continue its program of inspecting such sites and if the environmental requirements are not maintained the certificate may be withdrawn.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION:

Environmental Assessment - Review Process

In an effort to speed up the review process under The Environmental Assessment Act, the Ministry has made administrative changes and assigned more staff. This should significantly assist project proponents in scheduling and planning the projects and reduce the time required for project development and design.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND ELIMINATION/CONSOLIDATION OF REGULATIONS:

Motor Vehicle Emissions

This Ministry has redrafted its regulations which govern motor vehicle emissions in order to avoid discrepancy and to ensure consistency with the revised Federal Government legislation and to consolidate the three older regulations into a single simplified regulation.

MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

PRIVATIZATION:

Government Property Projects

The private sector now carries out:
100% of construction activity
90% of repair work
80% of design work
70-80% of housekeeping and security
80-85% of printing operations

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Advertising Process for Public Tenders

In July 1978, new procedures dealing with the processing of advertisements for public tenders were implemented. The simplified changes involve fewer people and reduce the process from one week to about 48 hours.

ELIMINATION OF ORDERS-IN-COUNCIL:

Purchase of Residential Property

A new form of contract has eliminated the Orders-in-Council (effective April 1, 1980) regarding the purchase of residential property in relation to staff transfers.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

SELF-REGULATION/DECREASED INVOLVEMENT BY GOVERNMENT:

Elimination of a Provincial Register

In anticipation of The Health Protection Act and in keeping with the recommendations of the Krever Commission on Confidentiality of Health Records, the maintenance of a provincial register of gonorrhoea cases has been discontinued.

Nursing Homes

Extensive amendments to the nursing home regulations have been undertaken to increase the regulatory responsibility of nursing homes. Recent developments in the nursing home industry, particularly the move toward accreditation, have been initiating and guiding factors. Some 14 sub-sections have been deleted by reference to the Ontario Building Code.

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Mental Health Act Amendment

In 1978, the mental health legislation was updated in areas of civil commitment, confidentiality of records and the role of the Public Trustee.

Public Health Act

A number of public health regulations have been simplified by reference to the Ontario Building Code, where applicable, instead of repeating the same details (eg. nursing homes, food premises).

Several regulations under the Act were amended to eliminate confusion in areas of overlapping ministerial responsibility by clearer definition (eg. Agriculture and Food - dairies; Environment - public water supplies).

ELIMINATION/CONSOLIDATION OF REGULATIONS:

Capital Construction

Special regulations passed for capital costs that do not fall under the standard regulations are automatically eliminated when payment is made.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION:

Institutional Settings

The Ministry continues to encourage private sector involvement within the institutional setting. Management consulting within hospitals, and private company involvement in Industrial Therapy Programs are two examples of this.

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TOURISM

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS:

Federal Task Force Recommendations

The Ministry completely coordinated the response to the Federal Task Force Recommendations regarding small business with further analysis and action by 16 ministries completed by December 1980.

The Ontario Program to Enhance Productivity

This program has been discontinued to avoid the overlap which existed with the Federal Government program.

The Ontario Program for Advancement of Industrial Technology

The Ministry has discontinued this program after being assured by the Federal Government that its Enterprise Development Program would adequately handle small applications.

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Small Business Product Development Incentives

Application forms, evaluation procedures and processing of payments have been simplified and rationalized.

Small Business Programs

A new marketing program is in operation with a much shorter, simpler contract.

One Window Service

The Ministry has established a position of liaison officer to act as coordinator between the businessman and the Ontario Government. This service is being actively promoted in both the government and business communities. There are six or seven direct enquiries a week but referrals from other ministries are enhancing the effectiveness of this system. Enquiries are usually handled within a 7-day period and contact with other ministries is often established for the businessman.

Ontario Development Corporation

Since the Fall of 1979, a number of administrative changes have been made to reduce the processing time for loan applications. Also, the requirement of three application forms has been reduced to one form.

DECENTRALIZATION:

Private Campgrounds/Small Tourist Establishments

Responsibility for the licensing of private campgrounds and small tourist establishments (less than four rental units) in southern Ontario has been transferred to the municipalities.

MINISTRY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, since its reorganization on April 1, 1981, is in essence a central agency responsible for advice on Ontario's corporate approach to federal-provincial, interprovincial, and international relations. Since its client group is the government itself, it does not currently have responsibility for administrative or regulatory legislation. As a result, the Ministry is not supervising regulatory reform for clients in the non-government sector. However, it continues to hold responsibility from the First Ministers' Conference on the Constitution for coordinating Ontario's intergovernmental activities on the disentanglement of federal and provincial activities and programs, including regulations.

Comprehensive regulatory reform achievements completed by the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs in the area of municipal affairs appear under the newly created Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

SELF-REGULATION/DECREASED INVOLVEMENT BY GOVERNMENT:

Industrial Standards - Garment Industry

Advisory Committees, composed of employer and employee members, represent the four sectors of the industry (men's and boys' clothing; ladies' cloak and suit; ladies' dress and sportswear; and fur) and administer schedules of wages, hours, and working conditions.

In response to an industry request, Regulations under The Industrial Standards Act were amended in 1980. The purpose of the revisions was to increase the representativeness and responsiveness of the advisory committees; to allow for more widespread participation; to ensure access to financial statements by employers and employees; and to increase knowledge in the industry of committee activities.

Occupational Health and Safety

In 1979 the regulations pursuant to The Occupational Health and Safety Act governing mining, industrial and construction establishments were revised in consultation with all affected parties. The regulations reflect current and appropriate national and international standards and include a provision to accept existing practices where equivalent to Ministry standards.

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Labour Relations

The Labour Relations Act was amended effective September, 1979, to ensure the availability of an expeditious grievance arbitration procedure to labour and management as an alternative to negotiated procedures.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION:

Ontario Manpower Commission

In 1979 the Government established the Ontario Manpower Commission. It consists of a full time Commissioner/Chairman and part-time members who have extensive backgrounds in manpower work and who are familiar with the views of labour, management, educators and others concerned about the resolution of manpower problems. All members are from the private sector and the Chairman reports to the Cabinet through the Ministry of Labour.

The Commission oversees all manpower programs of the Ontario Government having to do with occupational training, counselling, job creation and work experience, labour market information and mobility and placement.

The thrust of the Commission's work is to establish a policy framework that will ensure the coordination and continuing development of provincial manpower activities. It does this by developing broad manpower plans as a basis for the allocation of funds to manpower activities. The Commission is concerned about ensuring the compatibility of current and proposed programs with policy directions approved by the Government. Also, it coordinates and plays a role in developing provincial positions relating to Ontario's interest in federal manpower initiatives and the ways in which Provincial and Federal Government policies and programs interact.

Mining Health and Safety

A bi-partite Review Committee on Health and Safety in the Mining Industry was created in May 1981 to provide the Minister with advice and counsel from a cross-section of labour and management of the mining community in Ontario, in respect to pertinent legislation and regulations.

A number of amendments to the Mining Regulations under The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1978 are now before the Committee. These amendments have been proposed in order to improve the internal consistency of the Regulations.

Designated Substances

A multi-stage procedure for public consultation has been implemented for designated substances under The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1978. Initial development of each proposed designated substance regulation is carried out following consultations with labour and management.

Once a decision has been reached to regulate a substance a notice of intent is published in The Ontario Gazette, accompanied by a call for briefs or submissions in relation to the designation. Following a review of the comments a proposed regulation may be published in The Ontario Gazette. To facilitate dialogue, the Ministry makes available an interim report on each substance setting out the Ministry's rationale for regulating the substance and providing a detailed analysis of the scientific literature explaining the reasons for selecting the particular exposure limit. When public comments have been received and necessary changes made in the regulation a review meeting is held with the interested parties to explain to those parties who had submitted briefs the reasons for accepting or rejecting their suggested improvements. Further comment is requested and reviewed until a final draft has been prepared.

The final draft is then submitted to the tripartite (labour, management, public) Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Occupational Safety for their review. This review may include both the substance of the regulation and the consultative process. The regulation is then submitted to the Regulations Committee of Cabinet and, upon approval, is filed with the Registrar of Regulations. In no case, however, may such filing take place less than sixty days after a publication of the proposed regulation in The Ontario Gazette.

To date, the designation process has been completed for one substance, lead, and is underway for six other substances and one physical agent. The other substances are asbestos, coke oven emissions, isocyanates, mercury, silica, and vinyl chloride. The physical agent is noise.

MANAGEMENT BOARD

GENERAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION:

Central Financial Control System

As the result of a comprehensive review conducted by the Secretariat, Management Board approved changes designed to rationalize and simplify the budgetary control process, without jeopardizing the overall financial control.

Resource Allocation Process

A reformed resource allocation process aimed at clarifying the respective roles of ministries and central agencies has been developed and approved by Cabinet. The new process has been used with success starting with the 1980-81 allocation process. The new funding allocation process enables ministries to be more responsive to Cabinet priorities and, at the same time, to provide Cabinet with an improved information base to facilitate its decision-making process.

The Estimates Process

The information detail which ministries are required to submit in the preparation of the annual expenditure estimates of the Government was streamlined and simplified for the 1980-81 fiscal year.

Records Retention Review

An inter-ministry task force has reviewed the record retention periods in the private sector required by statute and regulation and has established a schedule of minimum retention periods. A guide to the statutory and regulatory Records Retention Requirements of Ontario was published in December 1981.

Ministry Incentive Program

Introduced as part of the 1980-81 Estimates process, the program consists of two major elements: (a) a productivity improvement fund, established to encourage and support administrative improvement projects in Government; and (b) a provision to increase ministry funding for new initiatives which will subsequently result in cost reductions or increases in revenue which will be appreciably greater than the initial funding increase.

Grants have been made under both elements of the program.

Administrative Policies

Most administrative policies published in Volume 1, Manual of Administration, have been reviewed and rewritten to eliminate non-essential controls, obsolete or duplicated material and to clarify the policy intent. The remaining few policies are in the process of being reviewed.

Sunset Review of Advisory Agencies

A policy has been developed and approved by Cabinet which requires all advisory agencies to be sunsetted. The Agencies Review Committee has scheduled for sunset review between March 1982 and March 1984 all advisory agencies in existence on March 12, 1980. The review will examine each agency mandate, structure and operation, measure its contribution to the overall policy and program formulation process and consider the organizational alternatives to the agency format.

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS:

The Planning Process

The Community Planning Advisory Branch, created from existing staff resources, provides planning assistance to municipalities from five field offices throughout the Province. Technical and financial help, for instance, is provided so that Minister's zoning orders can be replaced by comprehensive zoning by-laws in unorganized areas throughout northern Ontario.

Joint Housing Committee

A Joint Housing Committee (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing/Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation) was established to be responsible for joint determination of need, integrated project planning and budgeting and co-ordinated program delivery (Assisted Housing Program September 1980, Rehabilitation Programs September 1981).

Federal/Provincial Land Assemblies

Through the cooperative efforts of the Ontario Land Corporation and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the O.L.C. has undertaken a total simplification of management information and administration requirements. As a result, approximately 260 individual contracts with C.M.H.C. are reduced to three global agreements - one for partnership projects and two for loan projects. These changes result in a much more effective and streamlined administration process for both O.L.C. and C.M.H.C., and provide senior management of both Corporations the necessary and timely financial and statistical information.

Disentanglement of Federal/Provincial Housing Programs

There have been significant achievements in disentangling the federal and provincial roles in the socially assisted housing programs and the solution has been for the Province to take responsibility for administering the programs. To date, the Ministry has assumed responsibility for administering family and senior citizen rent-geared-to-income public housing and the municipal non-profit program. The process was completed May 30, 1980, when the Province took over the private non-profit housing program.

SELF-REGULATION/DECREASED INVOLVEMENT BY GOVERNMENT:

French Language Services

A newly designed program of financial assistance to municipalities for French language services allows municipalities greater flexibility in designing programs, and cost-sharing arrangements are more appropriate to municipal operations.

Financial Disclosure to the Public

Legislation requires a municipality to publish a copy of its annual financial report in a local newspaper. After consultation with a committee of municipal auditors and treasurers, guidelines were issued allowing municipalities to publish in any format they desired, provided certain essential information was included. This allows municipalities to report their financial operations in a more understandable and appealing form.

The Municipal Act

Specifications re numbers and types of members on Boards of Parks Management have been removed. Now boards are allowed to be constituted as appropriate to the local situation.

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Zoning Approval Process

Under certain procedural requirements the Ontario Municipal Board has been removed from the zoning approval process where no objections have been lodged.

The Planning Act

The Ministry has encouraged a number of municipalities to assume the necessary responsibilities and to enact effective local controls so as to make possible the revocation of Minister's zoning orders, the release of certain properties from controls under the Parkway Belt Plan and the initiation of a similar process to remove lands from development control under the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

Similarly, the monitoring of local consent decisions has been abolished in selected areas as local agencies demonstrate their capabilities.

A new Planning Act introduced at this Fall session of the Legislature includes numerous proposals to streamline the approval process, increase local autonomy and establish a flexible municipal planning system which is responsive to changing economic and environmental needs.

Land Division Committee - Committee of Adjustment Approval Process

Local procedures for approval have been simplified and appears to the Lieutenant Governor in Council on O.M.B. appeals have been eliminated in order to streamline the decision-making process.

Condominium Approval Process

In order to reduce duplication and streamline the process, the condominium approval procedure has been revised.

Business Improvement Area

The efficiency and flexibility of the program has been improved by: allowing anyone assessed in the B.I.A. to serve on the Board of Management; permitting the Board, with the approval of the Council, to incur indebtedness beyond the current year and; allowing Council to specify maximum and minimum levies and to make a special levy where special benefit is derived.

Planning Approvals

The Ministry has been providing a comprehensive single window service for municipalities in approving Official Plans, and for developers in approving applications for subdivisions. Except where authority has been delegated to Regional Municipalities, the Ministry is responsible for circulating proposed Official Plans and applications for subdivisions to all concerned agencies, coordinating the conditions for approval requested by these agencies and resolving differences. This service has recently been further improved by combining approvals for Official Plans and Subdivisions into Branches aligned on a geographic basis.

Rationalization and Marketing of Land Holdings

The Land Development Wing of the Ministry was created to consolidate, rationalize, plan, finance, develop and market some 70,000 acres of land formerly held by various provincial agencies. One major undertaking is the new community of Townsend to accommodate the anticipated growth in population deriving from Stelco's new steel production facility at Nanticoke.

Financial Information Return and the Financial Report

In 1977 the comprehensive annual financial report required from each municipality in Ontario was replaced by two documents, the Financial Information Return and the Financial Report.

The Financial Information Return was reduced to include only the minimum information needs of the Province. The Financial Information Return is used to compile municipal financial statistics, develop provincial economic policies, estimate municipal grants for the Provincial Budget, analyse the financial capabilities of individual municipalities, and calculate municipal entitlements to provincial grants of over \$500 million.

The Financial Report represents the audited annual financial statement of the municipality. Separation from the Financial Information Return means that a municipality can prepare an annual financial report that best reflects its operations and position, without reference to the statistical information needs of the Province.

The Municipal Elections Act

A section of The Municipal Elections Act required that municipal clerks send notices to individuals deleted from the preliminary list of electors. This included deceased persons. The section has been amended to allow the clerk some flexibility where he feels such notices cannot be delivered.

Another section of The Municipal Elections Act specified that election ballots not be furnished to prisoners, mental patients, or the mentally incompetent. That responsibility has now been removed, since it is often impossible to identify such individuals.

The Municipal Act

A two year waiting period has been removed under the procedures to establish Boards of Management for business improvement areas.

Many sections conferring powers only on specified classes or sizes of municipalities have been amended so that they now apply to all municipalities and thereby remove the status distinctions.

Several sections pertaining to penalties and fines have been updated for consistency with The Provincial Offences Act that sets the general minimum for breaking a provincial statute at \$2,000.

The following outdated sections have been modernized: Section 351 formerly provided for the establishment of institutions for the reclamation of habitual drunkards, and for the committal of habitual drunkards to such institutions with or without hard labour. A new section provides a general power to all municipalities to establish treatment centres for alcoholics.

A section allowing municipalities to provide certain benefits to employees and their wives and children was amended to include husbands.

REDUCTION IN FILING REQUIREMENTS:

Tax Rebate Applications

Formerly, an owner of more than one assessed property received duplicate packages of forms to complete to apply for tax rebates. Now, one package only is sent. This affects about one-third of the applicants - farmers or those operating a managed forest program.

DECENTRALIZATION:

Delegation of Approval Authority

The approval authority for applications of subdivision, condominiums on a selected basis and Official Plans of area municipalities has been delegated to Regional municipalities.

ELIMINATION/CONSOLIDATION OF LEGISLATION:

Regional Acts

Sections of The Metropolitan Toronto Act and other regional acts have been removed, having been made redundant by The Homes for the Aged Act.

The Municipal Act

A section requiring all buildings to have scuttles in the roof, with stairs or ladders leading to them, was repealed.

An obsolete section conveying powers on the Canadian Wheelman's Association of the Dominion of Canada has been repealed.

Section 386, paragraphs 1 and 2, have been repealed, their references to "regulating and controlling children engaged as express or dispatch messengers, vendors of small-wares and bootblacks", and "regulating the hours of labour of persons employed in livery and boarding stables...or by the owners of...other vehicles kept for hire", being obsolete and redundant.

Obsolete sections were repealed that conveyed the following powers on municipalities: to inspect public bathing houses and boathouses; to regulate the use of milk, bread and other food tickets and coupons; to employ watchmen to patrol highways at night and to levy special taxes on adjacent properties; to sell butchers' meat that has been distrained for the rent of a market stall; to control and regulate in many and specific ways the sale of coal, wood, dairy products, grain and other foods that are now regulated by the marketplace; to set apart "one or more highways or parts of highways" on which horses may be ridden or driven more rapidly than is permitted on other highways"; to prescribe "the distance from a highway within which un-enclosed portable steam engines may not be used for running a sawmill or a shingle mill"; to keep open the highways "during the season of sleighing" and to appoint overseers or pathmasters who could, in turn, "require the persons liable to perform statute labour to assist in keeping open such highways".

GENERAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION:

Simplification of Approval Process

As of April 1, 1980, housing projects initiated under socially assisted housing programs and the neighborhood improvement program, go directly to Cabinet for Orders-in-Council and bypass Management Board.

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PRIVATIZATION:

Provincial Park Campgrounds

The Ministry of Natural Resources is actively participating in the general government thrust to increase the use of the private sector. As a result, ten "provincial park campgrounds" are currently being operated by the private sector. These operators are responsible for carrying out the daily maintenance and organization of the parks, without reducing or affecting provincial park standards in any way. The Ministry's direct involvement with these parks is reduced as are its operating expenditures. These arrangements are currently being evaluated for their long-term effects prior to the Ministry developing a firm policy on the matter or entering into any additional arrangements.

More services in the provincial parks are being handled by private concessions now that "fill-in-the-blank" service contracts are being provided to the parks by the Legal Services Branch.

SELF-REGULATION/DECREASED INVOLVEMENT BY GOVERNMENT:

The Game and Fish Act

Amendments to The Game and Fish Act, provide for simplification of requirements and an increased variety of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Elimination of Obsolete Requirements

The Ministry has adopted a policy whereby it will not object to municipal closure and disposition to the adjoining landowner of municipally-owned 66-foot shoreline road allowances. Also, the Ministry will give favourable consideration to the closure and disposition of Crown road allowances or 66-foot shoreline reserves upon the request of the adjoining landowner, provided that such action will not adversely affect Ministry of Natural Resources programs or will not conflict with existing or proposed public uses of these 66-foot strips. This policy recognizes the existing uses on road allowances and shore reserves and thus allows for an easier resolution of problems with regard to land transfers, mortgages, insurance claims and the settling of estates.

Forest Management Agreements

By amendment to The Crown Timber Act in 1979, forest management agreements were established to incorporate both the forest regeneration and the harvest component of the forest management cycle as the responsibility of the licensee. The use of contractual agreements with the private sector was chosen as the most appropriate vehicle for a re-direction of the forest management program. Inadequate performance on the part of the agreement holder represents breach of contract, rather than infraction of regulation, and is therefore subject to damages as specified in the agreement rather than by fines established in regulation.

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Private Game Bird Hunting Preserves

Regulations governing private game bird hunting preserves have been simplified in order to allow the private sector to be more economically efficient and viable in its operation of these preserves.

Crown Timber Act

In the Fall of 1979 an amendment to The Crown Timber Act was passed which streamlined the issuing of small timber licenses. Through this amendment the basis for issuing licenses was changed from dollar value to area.

The Surveys Act

The monumentation regulations under The Surveys Act have been simplified.

DECENTRALIZATION:

Contracts and Approvals

The Ministry of Natural Resources Act has been amended so that authority could be delegated to the most appropriate positions within the organization. This change concerns more than 100 items and will reduce delays to individuals and businesses in their transactions with the Ministry. It will also have the benefit of reducing paper work and staff involvement in Toronto.

Quarry Permits

The issuance of Quarry Permits was decentralized to the District Offices on May 1, 1979, resulting in a reduction of time delays and procedural difficulties in obtaining a quarry permit.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION:

Development Planning Review Process

In an effort to speed up the processing approvals, the Ministry has made a commitment to complete the reviews of development applications, official plans, and zoning amendments within thirty days of their receipt from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Regional Directors and District Managers now take full responsibility to review and personally approve staff comments on zoning, planning, or development proposals in order to reduce "time-limits" and simplify relations with other ministries.

MINISTRY OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS

ELIMINATION OF ORDERS-IN-COUNCIL:

Municipal Agreements and Grants Authority

In April 1981 an omnibus Order-in-Council was passed delegating the authority to the Ministry to enter into agreements with municipalities for the purpose of implementing projects and to make grants in connection with programs established for the benefit of the residents of northern Ontario. These formerly required individual Orders-in-Council.

MINISTRY OF REVENUE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS:

Exchange of Tax Data

Interprovincial agreements with the Province of Quebec have been negotiated to provide the exchange of confidential data which will resolve double taxation problems and assist each taxing jurisdiction in reducing tax evasion.

Ontario Tax Credits

Negotiations with the Federal Government have been completed to provide additional information to income tax filers respecting their Ontario Tax Credits and to further explain how the Ontario Tax Credit portion of their income tax refund cheque is attributable to the provincial OTC program.

Property Assessment

A municipal council may request by resolution that the Ministry invoke Section 86 of The Assessment Act to equalize assessment distribution within specific property classes. This procedure results in the gradual reassessment of the province, along with an intermediate step toward property tax reform. A total of 247 municipalities and school boards have been reassessed under Section 86(3) since the program was first offered. A further 40 proclaimed municipalities have been updated to market value and an estimated 100 municipalities and school boards will request Section 86(3) implementation in 1981 for 1982 taxation.

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Tax Credits

Interest paid by the Ministry of Revenue on money owing to the taxpayer has been increased to equal that charged on taxes owed to the Ministry.

Sales Tax Exemptions

Organizations sponsoring live commercial performances in which all performers are Canadian citizens or landed immigrants may now sell admission exempt of sales tax. Charitable, non-profit and amateur athletic organizations automatically qualify for an exemption according to their status under The Income Tax Act (Canada).

Tax Disputes

A new Advance Tax Rulings Service reduces uncertainty about taxation of new corporate undertakings. The new Tax Appeals Branch provides an improved system and independent forum for taxpayers to settle tax disputes.

General Consent for the Destruction of Books and Records

This measure eliminates much of the administrative cost for over 250,000 small businesses of records retention since they can now develop records retention schedules without having to write to the Ministry for consent. Upon fulfillment of the conditions of General Consent, permission is granted by the Minister for the destruction of books and records to which these conditions apply.

Increased Compensation for Retail Sales Tax Vendors

Where previously the amount of compensation was \$3 per return card, vendors may now claim a minimum of \$16 for each return card, or the amount of tax collected if less than \$16. While the annual rate of compensation remains at 4% of the tax collected, the amount payable to any vendor by the Ministry is increased from \$700 to \$1,000.

Compensation is intended to help offset the cost of bookkeeping required for collection or remittance of sales tax. The increase will be particularly beneficial to small businesses.

Unregistered Corporate Property Liens

On all property owned by corporations, there was an automatic unregistered lien. In addition, if a purchaser of land owned by a corporation wished to obtain a clear title to that property, the purchaser had to request a lien clearance from the Ministry. Now, the Ministry abolishes annually 200,000 unregistered corporate property liens which results in savings to taxpayers of \$1.25 million.

Veterans' Land

Whenever a veteran purchased land, the transfer of ownership involved a convoluted paper process between the veteran, the Federal Government and the Provincial Government. This procedure has been drastically streamlined.

Exempt Purchases by Indians

Before this measure was introduced, an Indian was able to purchase personal goods tax exempt off a reserve only if the seller delivered the goods to the reserve. This requirement has been relaxed to allow an Indian who produces proper identification to take possession of the goods anywhere in Ontario for use on the reserve.

Special Permit for Contractors

Contractors need not pay tax on materials incorporated into projects which are exempted, such as a municipal building. A special permit has been required up to now, and 1,558 of these were issued in the last year. These permits will no longer be required due to a simplification of the procedure.

Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax, Gasoline Tax and Tobacco Tax

A new audit approach is being developed based on a more selective method rather than an attempted blanket coverage. Audits will be chosen using computer listings and audit leads, in order to focus attention on tax-filers where there are tax problems. In addition, testing methods will be used more extensively during audits to minimize unproductive checking.

For taxpayers, this will mean less impact on their activities due to the audit function, especially for those whose tax affairs are in order.

Motor Vehicle Rebate for the Physically Handicapped

A rebate of tax paid on the purchase of a motor vehicle was previously available only if the vehicle had been significantly adapted to transport a physically handicapped person who was unable to use public transit. Eligibility was difficult to determine.

The expanded program removes the requirements concerning public transit and significant adaptation and also makes it possible for a designated family member to obtain the rebate on a vehicle used to transport the handicapped. As a result, the program benefits a greater number of disabled people and reduces administrative problems by simplifying eligibility requirements.

Retail Sales Tax Bonding Requirements for Vendors

To streamline registration procedures and issuing permits, the policy related to the requirements for bonding has been revised. Bonds are required only for those businesses or individuals who have demonstrated by past performance their lack of compliance. This policy greatly reduces the number of bonds required.

Logical Re-Sequencing of the Assessment Act

A re-sequencing of The Assessment Act was completed for inclusion with the 1980 Revised Statutes of Ontario. The revision makes it easier for the user to interpret the statute as it now proceeds in a logical sequence that parallels the assessment process.

Tax Payments Via Commercial Banks

Tax banking provides small businesses with a more convenient tax payment system without bank counter-charges to customers and with savings in postal costs. It also provides an improvement in revenue flow into the consolidated revenue fund and affords protection in the event of postal stoppages.

Local Service Boards

Although a retail sales tax exemption is available to municipalities for capital works projects, formerly the legislation did not recognize local services boards undertaking similar projects in unorganized areas. A new regulation makes it easier for these boards to obtain a similar exemption.

Specialty Equipment Fuel Refund Allowance

In the past, auditors performed on-site testing of fuel consumption of specialty equipment before taxpayers were allowed to claim refunds. Accurate allowance rates were determinable by this practice, but there was unavoidable impact on the taxpayers' operations and it was expensive in terms of audit time.

On-site testing by auditors has been discontinued in favour of using manufacturers and published rates of consumption or other sources which would appear reasonable.

Gasoline and Motor Vehicle Fuel

As part of the new ad valorem taxation on gasoline and motor vehicle fuel, a number of important changes have been made to simplify and speed up refunds and reduce information requirements.

SIMPLIFICATION OF GRANTS CRITERIA:

Assessment Equalization Factors

Since grants for school boards and municipalities were based on 1971 figures, the assessment formula had to be updated. Now, a more equitable distribution is accomplished through the introduction of updated factors based on current market value. These were first effective in 1980 and will be updated annually.

Simplification of Application Requirements for OTG

For 1981, homeowners applying for an Ontario Property Tax Grant need no longer provide the assessment roll number of their residence. Likewise, tenants are no longer required to complete a rental statement or submit receipts. These steps have been discontinued in recognition of the difficulties they posed for seniors during the 1980 application process.

REDUCTION IN FILING REQUIREMENTS:

Refund Claims of Gasoline Tax

In the past, it has been a requirement that invoices submitted in support of applications for refund of gasoline tax be receipted by the seller of the gasoline to ensure that tax has, in fact, been paid by the claimant. This resulted in the receipting of approximately 500,000 invoices per year by 50,000 refund claimants.

Upon review, it was decided that this requirement could be done away with, without any real impact on collection and refund of gasoline tax.

Certain Classes of Diesel Fuel Registrants

Two groups of diesel fuel registrants involving approximately 4,000 have been eliminated without adversely affecting tax collection: truck and bus operators who pay tax to their supplier and who only travel within the province; and heating fuel dealers and suppliers who do not handle any taxable products.

These groups of registrants objected to the quarterly and annual reporting requirements since the exercise served no apparent useful purpose.

Retail Sales Tax Vendors

Revenue has reduced the tax filing paperburden for some 10,000 retail sales tax vendors. Similar streamlining is underway for an additional 25,000 small businesses.

ELIMINATION/CONSOLIDATION OF LEGISLATION:

The Railway Fire Charge Act

This Act was originally designed to defray the cost of fire protection necessitated by potential fire threats from steam locomotives. Such railroad lands will still be taxable under The Provincial Land Tax Act which is more appropriate for recovering service costs, including fire protection.

ELIMINATION/CONSOLIDATION OF REGULATIONS:

The Agricultural Development Finance Act

This regulation establishes the conditions within which the Minister may alter the rate of interest on Province of Ontario Savings Office deposits without a separate regulation for each change.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION:

Enhancement of Returns Processing, Billing and Re-assessment Functions

The Corporations Tax Branch initiated a review of their return processing operation and the automated refund system. Enhancements to these operations have been introduced to further speed up processing of the Corporations Tax Return CT23 and the refund time.

Assessment Open Houses

The Ministry's Municipal Assessment Program has introduced a program of open houses at various locations within each municipality. These open houses are designed to bring ratepayer and assessor together in an informal atmosphere to discuss the assessment process and to reduce the number of formal appeals through the correction of basic information.

Ministry Guide

The Ministry of Revenue has produced a comprehensive, bilingual guide to its programs and services. The guide has been distributed widely to the Ministry's client groups including lawyers, accountants and government contacts.

MINISTRY OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Payment Procedures

On October 2, 1981, the Ministry recommended that payment procedures be eased for vehicle repairs and for van-line rental. This will remove the previous cash limitations which restricted District Offices' ability to issue cheques above a set amount, and will enable local O.P.P. Offices to pay vendors more promptly.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

PRIVATIZATION:

Commercial Entrances on Provincial and Controlled Access Highways

In September 1979, the Ministry announced a policy whereby the private sector may design and construct alterations to commercial entrances and future public road entrances to Provincial Highways. In the past, the Ministry undertook the design and construction of these entrances, especially where the basic highway lanes were involved. The work is still performed under the guidance of the Ministry.

Supplies to Road Contractors

The Ministry has reduced its involvement in supplying materials to road contractors. In recognition that it can be done as efficiently and perhaps at a lower price, the contractors are now responsible for supplying nearly all material including asphalt, portland cement, trap rock and fence posts.

Road Products Testing

The Ministry has eliminated the procedure of testing road products and supplies which have been commercially proven as acceptable, such as motor oils, anti-freeze, wires and tools. The responsibility to test and ensure that these products are acceptable and safe now lies with the private sector.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS:

Canadian Reciprocity for Truck Licensing

An agreement for mileage-prorated reciprocity for truck licensing was formally implemented in 1981 for six provinces including Ontario. This allows interprovincial commercial motor vehicles to pay registration fees in each province on a prorated basis thus reducing overall costs and improving service to both the general public and the transportation industry.

Approval of Municipal Roads Contracts

Ministry policy issued in July 1981, eliminated requirements for Ministry approval of Municipal Roads contracts given that proper tender procedures and non-restrictive specifications are used by the municipality in awarding contracts. This will have time and cost savings to the municipality and the Ministry.

Municipal Road Improvements and Maintenance

In response to the recommendations made to the Ministry by the Special Advisory Committee on Administrative Procedures for Road Grants, the Ministry has developed a revised policy on municipal purchasing in connection with road improvements and maintenance activities. This results in a significant reduction in the number of administrative approvals required of municipal road authorities by the Ministry.

United States Reciprocity for Truck Licensing

Since the Autumn of 1977, the Ministry has negotiated reciprocal commercial vehicle registration agreements with 26 American States. The Ministry is currently considering broadening and streamlining these agreements to promote a freer flow of trade for manufacturing firms between Ontario and the United States.

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Driver Licensing

The Registrar of motor vehicles now may waive medical standards for licensing and also license holders may now appeal decisions to the License Suspension Appeal Board. The Registrar had no such discretion in the past and the licensees were not able to appeal down-grading or withdrawal of a license.

Charter Tariff Approvals

In the past all charter tariff approval requests were referred to the Ontario Highway Transport Board as a matter of practice. As a change in procedure, all proposed tariffs by carriers are submitted to the Minister, unless complaints/objections are received from the public. In that event, proposed tariffs are referred to the OHTB for decision.

Agreements with Co-axial and Gas Pipeline Companies

Agreements and payment due dates have been standardized. This reduces the workload of private firms.

Capital Roads Program

A major and comprehensive review was made of internal/external costs of pre-engineering and contract administration for the Provincial Roads Capital Construction Program. In excess of 90% of the "RECAP" projects have now been completed. An annual saving of over \$1.5 million has been achieved, including approximately fifty man years of human resources.

Uniform Bill of Lading

On January 2, 1980, the Ministry implemented a uniform Bill of Lading for general freight. A Bill of Lading is an agreement between the shipper and the transportation carrier which describes the conditions of carriage for the movement of goods. A uniform Bill could apply to all modes of transportation involved, thereby reducing the need for separate documentation.

Ontario plays a significant role in terms of coordinating provincial input, so that such streamlining procedures may be adopted across the country.

Vehicle Inspection Criteria

The Highway Traffic Act has been amended so that a vehicle inspected for deficiencies cannot be rejected for reasons such as perforations by corrosion, cracks, or loose or missing fasteners when these defective qualities do not affect the safe operation of the vehicle. However, if the safe operation of the vehicle is impaired, it is immediately taken off the road.

Aircraft Emergency Landings

Section 163 has been amended to permit an aircraft which lands on a highway in an emergency situation to take off. In the past, if an airplane was forced to make an emergency landing on a highway, the plane had to be disassembled and trucked to an airport, reassembled, retested and recertified. The cost of this exercise was as high as \$5,000.

Highway Traffic Act

For matters that previously required Order-in-Council, amendments to The Highway Traffic Act have resulted in delegation of authority. Ministerial regulation now covers traffic control in unorganized areas, signs and traffic control devices used in road closings, and prohibition of pedestrians, animals, and specific vehicles from certain highways. As well, Regional Directors can now designate the period of Spring thaw load restrictions while regulations regarding Spring load restrictions for vehicles transporting live poultry, public utility emergency vehicles and waste disposal vehicles, have been removed altogether.

This simplification of the process of regulation will ensure a more direct and responsive service to the public, while the easing of the vehicle restrictions in the Spring permits essential services to be provided within the framework of the law.

Highway Traffic Act

Recent changes in Regulations have been made under this Act to: allow an expanded use of 10 month bus registration plates; allow greater flexibility to applicants for selected driver license classes; revise the required location for bus license validation stickers; revise standards for first aid kit containers for school buses; replace provincial tire standards by the revised federal standards; and revise the school bus licensing year.

The increased flexibility to the operator of such changes is seen as a distinct advantage to individuals and fleet operators.

Public Commercial Vehicles Act

Regulations have been passed eliminating the requirement of trucking operators to file Workmen's Compensation Board certificates, thus easing administrative workload on the trucking industry.

Public Vehicles Act

Regulations have been made that permit charter license holders to run recurring charters from the same location and allow the license holders to sell charter trip tickets to individuals as well as to groups.

Building and Entrance Permits

The Building and Entrance permit issuance procedure has been improved by: amalgamating both the former Building Application and Permit into one form and the Entrance Application and Permit into one form and; on the spot issuance of Permits for minor applications in progress.

This simplification of procedure should be of significant benefit to a substantial number of the public who make such applications within any given period of time.

SIMPLIFICATION OF GRANTS CRITERIA:

The Airports Act

The Ministry can now approve grants to municipalities to build individual airport projects under The Airports Act without an Order-in-Council. These funds have always been part of the Ministry's budget.

REDUCTION IN FILING REQUIREMENTS:

District and Regional Audits

District and Regional Managers are now required to submit an audit to the Ministry every two years, instead of every year. This reduces disruption of district offices and reduces travel expenses.

Simplification of Vehicle Termination Procedures

Formerly, a wrecking yard was required to fill out a form when the yard received a vehicle which was no longer fit for use. Now, however, the wrecking yard simply has to return the car permit to the Ministry, with simple notification of the termination of the vehicle.

Simplification of Vehicle Registration Renewal Applications

Vehicle identification numbers are no longer required for duplicate vehicle registration permits. This initiative is part of a major Ministry study related to the Vehicle Registration System. The fact that the Vehicle Identification Number is already on file with the original registration eliminates the need for this requirement.

DECENTRALIZATION:

Purchase Authority for Regions

The Ministry has increased the local level of purchasing authority and designate commodities (i.e. maintenance supplies) to be purchased by regions. This will provide for faster procurement of goods and makes Regional Offices totally accountable for purchasing.

Raw Forest Products Road Allowance

Instead of involving the Ministry, local or municipal authorities are now authorized to grant approval to a local industry which needs to increase its truck cargo weight allowance, up to a maximum of 10%. The local authority is naturally more accessible to the industry and is likely more knowledgeable of the existing road conditions in the area.

Regional Office Autonomy

There has been a definite thrust in this Ministry over the last four years to give more autonomy to the Regional Offices. For example, a Regional Director can now negotiate additional contracts (e.g. heavy equipment rentals, etc.) enabling the regions to procure goods and contracts more quickly.

MINISTRY OF TREASURY AND ECONOMICS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS:

Federal/Provincial Finance

Strong pressure by this Ministry throughout the mid and late 1970's produced significant advances in disentangling Federal/Provincial functional and financial interrelationships. December of 1976 brought the Established Programs Financing agreement, through which federal assistance towards health and post-secondary education was divorced from actual spending and was radically streamlined.

In 1979-80, 82% of all federal payments to Ontario were on this disentangled basis.

Access to Statistics Canada Information

Central Statistical Services was recently accredited by Statistics Canada under Section 10 of The Federal Statistics Act, as a result of the Ontario government Order-in-Council designating CSS as the Provincial Statistical Agency for such purposes. This will enable CSS to further improve upon access to Statistics Canada data, especially those considered to be "critical" in terms of confidentiality.

Financial Data

In order to enhance public understanding concerning the state of Ontario government revenue and expenditures, the Ministry of Treasury and Economics publishes "Ontario Finances" on a quarterly basis which provides an updated position on the Ontario Budget during the course of the fiscal year.

CLARIFICATION/SIMPLIFICATION/CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS:

Small Business Incentive Program

Approval time under the Small Business Incentive Program of the Canada-Ontario Eastern Ontario Agreement has been reduced to approximately 60 days. As of September 30, 1981, 50 applications have been approved and five rejected. The 50 approvals represent a commitment of approximately \$2.5 million.

As per Amendment #1 (September 25, 1981) a maximum contribution to a Small Business applicant increased to \$300,000 from \$100,000, while the total eligible capital costs have increased to \$600,000 from \$500,000.

Investor Contacts

The Finance Management Branch has initiated a focal information point for queries concerning Ontario's debt and financing requirements received from present or potential domestic and international investors in Ontario's direct or guaranteed debt.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION:

Auditing and Accounting Practices - Receipts and Payments

As of August 1980, if vendor invoices are not paid within 30 calendar days, the vendor is entitled to collection of interest on an overdue account basis. The interest is charged against the operational cost of delinquent ministries. A recent review indicates that a major proportion of ministries' bills are being paid within the 30 days. The interest rate originally established (12%) is now being reviewed in the light of the present interest situation.

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